

UKRAINE CRISIS

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April 2014

8 April: Ukraine parliament approves legislation outlawing groups and individuals who call for separatism.

8 April: 70 people are arrested in anti-terrorist operation in Kharkiv, Interior Ministry says.

8 April: U.S. Navy warship USS Donald Cook is scheduled to enter the Black Sea no later than 10 April.

8 April: Russia warned that any use of force in Ukraine's eastern region could lead to civil war, as Kiev seeks to regain control after pro-Moscow uprisings in three cities.

5 April: Russia's natural gas giant Gazprom raised the price of Ukrainian gas by 81 percent and now requires the ex-Soviet state to pay the highest rate of any of its European clients.

4 April: The top three candidates standing in Ukraine's 25 May presidential election are all familiar faces to the public, but their prospects have changed since the country's political upheaval. Campaigning will begin shortly.

3 April: President Barack Obama brought congressional leaders to the White House on Thursday for talks on the Ukraine crisis, with diplomatic efforts between the United States and Russia facing a hard slog.

2 April: Ukraine's deposed President Viktor Yanukovich says Russia's annexation of Crimea is "a tragedy", expressing hope that the region will become part of Ukraine again.

1 April: NATO foreign ministers suspend all practical civilian and military co-operation with Russia at a meeting in Brussels. The military alliance also says it sees no sign of a Russian troop pullout from Ukraine's border.

March 2014

31 March: Russian troops partly withdraw from Ukrainian border in the south region of Rostov in Russia, following talks between Russia's foreign minister and his US counterpart. Meanwhile, Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev visits Crimea promising funds and pay increase.

31 March: Russian President Vladimir Putin orders a "partial withdrawal" of troops from the border with Ukraine, the German government announces.

31 March: Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev becomes the country's highest-ranking official to visit Crimea - a move condemned by Kiev as a "crude violation" of international rules.

30 March: Russian military drills near neighboring Finland have provoked concern that northern Europe may be the next focus of Moscow's seemingly renewed appetite for redrawing its borders. Troops and jet fighters from all four military regions of Russia were deployed Sunday about 150 miles east of the Finnish border

30 March: Ukraine holds a memorial service on the 40th day of killings of 103 Ukrainian activists at Kiev's Independence Square. Later on the day, US Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov for Ukraine talks.

29 March: Ukraine's presidential race begins with former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and billionaire confectionary tycoon Petro Poroshenko registering as hopefuls. Former heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko pulls out of the race, giving his backing to Poroshenko and urging Tymoshenko to do the same.

28 March: The US Congress agreed a major aid package to Ukraine on Thursday, overcoming weeks of partisan disagreement that has held up around \$1bn in loan guarantees to Kiev.

28 March: Amid signs of a big build-up of Russian forces on Ukraine's eastern border, US President Barack Obama urges Moscow to "move back its troops" and lower tensions.

28 March: Ukraine's deposed president, Viktor Yanukovich, calls for each of the country's regions to hold a referendum on its status "within Ukraine". Meanwhile, US sources say Russia's buildup near Ukraine may reach 40,000 troops.

27 March: International Monetary Fund announces \$14-\$18bn rescue for Ukraine as part of a broader package released by other governments and agencies amounting to \$27bn over the next two years. Meanwhile, UN General Assembly approves resolution declaring Russian annexation of Ukraine's Crimea illegal.

26 March: Russia's military chief of staff says that the Russian flag was flying at all 193 military installations in Crimea following takeover of Ukrainian bases and ships by Russian troops.

25 March: Oleksandr Turchynov, Ukraine's acting president, orders troops to withdraw from Crimea after Russia seized and annexed the peninsula. Turchynov told legislators that both servicemen and their families would now be relocated to the mainland.

24 March: Leaders of the Group of Seven nations, meeting without Russia, agreed to hold their own summit this year instead of attending a planned G8 meeting, due to have taken place June 4-5, in Sochi, along the

Black Sea coast from Crimea, and to suspend their participation in the G8 until Russia changes course. They warn Moscow it faces damaging economic sanctions if President Putin takes further action to destabilize Ukraine following the seizure of Crimea.

24 March: Ukrainian troops leave Crimea, following emotional farewells to wives and family members left behind. The pullout follows an order by Ukraine's acting President Oleksandr Turchynov.

23 March: About 189 military sites in Crimea are now under the control of Russian troops. Obama calls an emergency G7 meeting, excluding Russia, to be held as an off-shoot to Monday's G8 nuclear security summit.

22 March: Soldiers take control of Ukrainian air base in Belbek, as Novofedorovka naval base is seized by pro-Russian activists. Crimea celebrates joining Russia.

21 March: Russia backs off from tit-for-tat sanctions after US targets Putin's inner circle and EU adds 12 names to sanctions list. Ukraine says it will never accept loss of Crimea while Moscow signs a bill to formally annex the peninsula.

20 March: EU leaders gathered in Brussels condemn Russia's "annexation" of Crimea and extend the list of individuals targeted for sanctions. The US also extends sanctions

20 March: EU leaders condemn Russia's annexation of Crimea. EU and U.S. extend the list of individuals targeted for sanctions.

19 March: U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is heading to Moscow and Kiev to try to resolve the crisis between Russia and Ukraine over the Crimean Peninsula.

19 March: Vice President Joe Biden declared Wednesday the United States will respond to any aggression against its NATO allies, as Russia's neighbors looked warily to the escalating crisis in nearby Ukraine.

19 March: Pro-Russian activists, apparently Crimean self-defense forces, overtake Sevastopol base without using violence.

18 March: Putin signs treaty absorbing Crimea into Russia, the first time the Kremlin expands the country's borders since World War II. Kiev says the conflict has reached a "military stage" after a Ukrainian soldier was shot and killed by gunmen who stormed a military base in Simferopol. Crimea's pro-Kremlin police department says a member of the local self-defense forces was also killed in the same incident.

18 March: Biden will meet with Poland's president and prime minister, plus the presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The White House says the leaders plan to discuss ways to support Ukraine's sovereignty. They'll also discuss the defense commitments that NATO allies have to one another.

18 March: The G7 group of industrialized nations had already suspended preparations for a planned G8 summit in the Russian city of Sochi. Now, U.S. President Barack Obama has invited his counterparts from the other G7 countries and the European Union to a meeting of next week on the margins of a nuclear security summit in The Hague, U.S. National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said.

18 March: China has quietly split from Russia over Crimea -- on the same issue of sovereignty. U.S. officials say they are consulting closely with China on Ukraine, trying to further isolate Russia by portraying its actions in Crimea as outside international norms.

17 March: The US and Europe put asset freezes and visa bans on individuals involved in the Crimean breakaway. Putin approves a decree recognizing Crimea as an independent state. Local assembly chief says Ukrainian soldiers in Crimea must switch sides or leave.

16 March: Official results from Crimea's secession referendum say 97% of voters back a proposal to join Russia.

16 March: Mr. McCain, after returning from a visit to Ukraine his latest visit since December, said on CNN's "State of the Union" that the U.S. needs a "fundamental reassessment of our relationship with Vladimir Putin."

15 March: Moscow vetoes a draft UN resolution criticizing Crimea's secession referendum in Crimea.

13 March: Ukraine's parliament votes to create a 60,000-strong National Guard to defend the country.

13 March: German Chancellor Angela Merkel warns Moscow of potentially "massive" long-term economic and political damage. Ukraine mobilizes a volunteer "Home Guard". Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Czhemilev calls for a referendum boycott and NATO intervention to avert a "massacre".

12 March: Barack Obama pledges to stand with Ukraine during a meeting with welcomes interim Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk at the White House.

12 March: Vice President Joe Biden cut short his trip to Latin America, nixing a planned stop in the Dominican Republic so he can attend Wednesday's meeting, an aide to Biden said. Biden had been the White House's prime point of contact with Ukraine's president, Viktor Yanukovich, before he fled to Russia last month following violent clashes in Kiev

11 March: The European Commission offers Ukraine trade incentives worth nearly 500m euros (\$694m; £417m). Ukrainian MPs ask the US and UK to use all measures, including military, to stop Russia's aggression. Crimean regional parliament adopts a "declaration of independence".

10 March: Armed men seize a military hospital in Simferopol.

10 March: NATO announces it will start reconnaissance flights over Poland and Romania to monitor the situation in neighboring Ukraine where Russian forces have taken control of Crimea.

8 March: The US and France warn of "new measures" against Russia if it does not withdraw its forces from Ukraine. Warning shots are fired at international monitors trying to enter Crimea.

7 March: Russia says it will support Crimea if the region votes to leave Ukraine. Russia's state gas company Gazprom warns Kiev that its gas supply might be cut off. Ukraine sends just one athlete to the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games in Sochi.

7 March: Ukraine offers talks with Russia over Crimea, but on the condition that the Kremlin withdraws troops from the autonomous republic. Meanwhile, top Russian politicians meet Crimea's delegation with standing ovation and express their support for the region's aspirations of joining Russia.

6 March: Crimea's parliament votes to join Russia and schedules a referendum for 16 March.

5 March: US Secretary of State John Kerry seeks to arrange a face-to-face meeting between Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers. However, Sergey Lavrov refuses to talk to his Ukrainian counterpart, Andriy Deshchychia. Meanwhile, NATO announces a full review of its cooperation with Russia. OSCE sends 35 unarmed military personnel to Ukraine for "providing an objective assessment of facts on the ground."

4 March: Vladimir Putin breaks his silence, saying the armed men besieging Ukrainian forces in Crimea are not Russian troops but are self-defense forces.

3 March: "Black Monday" on Russian stock markets as reports suggest Russia's military had issued a deadline for Ukrainian forces in Crimea to surrender. The reports are later denied. Russia's UN envoy says toppled President Yanukovich had asked the Russian president in writing for use of force.

3 March: NATO says Moscow is threatening peace and security in Europe - claims Russia says will not help stabilize the situation. Russia's Black Sea Fleet tells Ukrainian navy in Sevastopol in Crimea to surrender or face a military assault.

2 March: Ukraine's interim PM Yatsenyuk says Russia has effectively declared war. US says Russia is in control of Crimea.

1 March: Russian parliament approves Vladimir Putin's request to use force in Ukraine to protect Russian interests. Pro-Russian rallies are held in several Ukrainian cities outside Crimea, including the second-biggest city Kharkiv. Barack Obama tells Mr. Putin to pull forces back to bases.

February 2014

27-28 February: Pro-Russian gunmen seize key buildings in the Crimean capital, Simferopol. Unidentified gunmen in combat uniforms appear outside Crimea's main airports. At his **first news conference** since fleeing to Russia, Mr. Yanukovich insists he remains president.

23-26 February: Parliament names speaker Olexander Turchynov as interim president. An arrest warrant is issued for Mr. Yanukovich, and the acting president warns of the dangers of separatism. Members of the proposed new government appear before demonstrators, with Arseniy Yatsenyuk nominated prime minister. The elite Berkut police unit, blamed for deaths of protesters, is disbanded.

23 February: Secretary Jacob J. Lew spoke by phone with Ukrainian leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk en route back to Washington, D.C. from the G-20 meeting in Sydney, Australia. Secretary Lew expressed that the United States, together with Europe and others in the international community, are ready to supplement an IMF program to cushion the impact of reforms on low-income Ukrainians. Secretary Lew and Mr. Yatsenyuk agreed to stay in close contact over the coming days and weeks as Ukraine moved forward rapidly to establish political and economic stability.

22 February:

- President Yanukovich disappears
- Protesters take control of presidential administration buildings
- Parliament votes to remove president from power with elections set for 25 May
- Mr Yanukovich appears on TV to denounce "coup"
- His arch-rival Yulia Tymoshenko is freed from jail

21 February: President Yanukovich signs compromise deal with opposition leaders.

20 February: Kiev sees its worst day of violence for almost 70 years. At least 88 people are killed in 48 hours. Video shows uniformed snipers firing at protesters holding makeshift shields.

18 February: Clashes erupt, with reasons unclear: 18 dead, including seven police, and hundreds more wounded. Some 25,000 protesters are encircled in Independence Square.

14-16 February: All 234 protesters arrested since December are released. Kiev city hall, occupied since 1 December, is abandoned by demonstrators, along with other public buildings in regions.

January 2014

28-29 January: Prime Minister Mykola Azarov resigns and parliament **annuls the anti-protest law**. Parliament passes amnesty bill promising to drop charges against all those arrested in unrest if protesters leave government buildings. Opposition rejects conditions.

16-23 January: Parliament passes restrictive anti-protest laws, Days later **two people die** of gunshot wounds as clashes turn deadly for first time. Third death reported as the body of high-profile activist Yuriy Verbytsky is found. Protesters begin **storming regional government offices** in western Ukraine.

December 2013

17 December: Vladimir Putin throws President Yanukovich an economic lifeline, agreeing to buy \$15bn of Ukrainian debt and reduce the price of Russian gas supplies by about a third.

Early December: Protesters **occupy Kiev city hall** and Independence Square in dramatic style, turning it into a tent city. Biggest demonstration yet sees 800,000 people attend demonstration in Kiev.

November 2013

Late November: Protests gather pace, as 100,000 people attend **demonstration in Kiev**, the largest in Ukraine since the Orange Revolution. Police launch first raid on protesters, arresting 35. Images of injured demonstrators raise international profile of the protests.

30 November: Public support grows for pro-EU anti-government protesters as images of them bloodied by police crackdown spread online and in the media.

21 November: President Yanukovich's cabinet **abandons an agreement** on closer trade ties with EU, instead seeks closer co-operation with Russia. Ukrainian MPs also reject a bill to allow **Yulia Tymoshenko** to leave the country. Small protests start and comparisons with Orange Revolution begin.

2010

February: Viktor Yanukovich declared winner in presidential election, judged free and fair by observers. His main rival, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, is arrested for abuse of powers and **eventually jailed in October 2011**.

2004

December: Opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko tops poll in election re-run. Rival candidate Viktor Yanukovich challenges result but resigns as prime minister.

November: Orange Revolution begins after reports of widespread vote-rigging in presidential election nominally won by pro-Russian candidate Viktor Yanukovich. Opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko leads mass street protests and civil disobedience. Supreme Court annuls result of poll.

1991

August: Ukrainian parliament declares independence from USSR following attempted coup in Moscow. In nationwide referendum in December, 90% vote for independence.